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going to be making these purchases. And we ought to be on our way to an efficient, overall, compatible system, and I think that's the importance of the bill. But I'm not going to feel compelled myself, if I'm here next year, to fund this in General Fund programs, in the various agencies who will come forward. If it's necessary, we can take it on its own merit at that time, but there's not that implication that I see in this bill. So, with that, I oppose the IPP and I will support the bill through this process. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I also rise in support of LB 1211. I come from a little bit different viewpoint, I guess. I've obviously been concerned about spending, but there is no A bill with this bill. Let me tell where we come from, in rural Nebraska, is I still serve on the fire board. I'm treasurer of the fire board there. And we have this 1950's, and I think it might be stretching it to say it's 1960's technology in our ambulance and fire trucks out there. It's 39 megacycle, we call low-band radios, and we're just as likely to get somebody in South America as we are somebody in the next county. And the cost of repairs on this equipment is eating us alive out there. We can buy new high-tech, high-band equipment, go on a repeater system for less than it's costing us to maintain, and occasionally we have to replace one of the low-band radios in a fire truck, some such a matter, and it costs more to do that than it would to replace it with the new technology. And we'd have reliability and solid-state circuitry and so on; no crystals and all these things that is just fifties and sixties equipment we have out there now. What this bill does is help...it sets up the process, the alliance, the coordination to move forward with this across the state. I know there have been a few departments that are in...within cities and maybe a couple counties out there that have gone ahead and done this, but the vast majority of our rural counties are still on their own out there with this old technology. And our ambulance depends pretty much on a cell phone for communications. That radio equipment in our ambulance for Nebraska is still old technology, 1960's-era equipment. We go into Kansas. It's like we have a pipeline going into Kansas.